EXPRESSING QUANTITY

When expressing quantity we need to pay attention to whether it is a COUNTABLE or UNCOUNTABLE NOUN.

COUNTABLE NOUNS

a) They are the names of separate objects, people ... which we can count. They have both singular and plural forms:

- *a/one* ***book*** *two* ***books***
- *a/one* ***man*** *two* ***men***

b) They take singular or plural verb forms:

This banana is delicious.
These bananas are delicious.

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

a) They are the names of things we do not see as separate and which we cannot count. They have no plurals:

- ***milk*** - ***weather*** - ***money***

b) They take only singular verbs:

The weather was very hot.
Milk is good for you.

c) Not used with *a/an/one...*

PRACTICE

Insert **a/an** before each countable noun. Put an **(x)** before an uncountable noun.

a) ___ water	b) ___ egg	c) ___ cheese
d) ___ meat	e) ___ banana	f) ___ hamburger
g) ___ meal	h) ___ fish	i) ___ tea
j) ___ cup	k) ___ sugar	l) ___ apple
m) ___ rice	n) ___ bread	o) ___ orange
p) ___ sandwich	q) ___ cookie	r) ___ sausage

Below you have a list of some QUANTIFIERS. Some are used with countable nouns, others with uncountable ones. Some can even be used with both.

COUNTABLES (apple/apples)		UNCOUNTABLES (cheese)
a lot of (lots of)/ plenty of	LARGE AMOUNT	a lot of (lots of) / plenty of
a(n)/ some / *(a) few / not many (*a few = some *few = not many)	SMALL AMOUNT	some / *(a) little / not much (*a little = some *little = not much)
not any, no	NO AMOUNT	not any, no

SOME

- for **AFFIRMATIVES**:

There are some eggs.

- for **OFFERS** and **REQUESTS**:

Would you like some tea?

- for **QUESTIONS** where the answer 'yes' is expected:

Did you buy some eggs?

ANY

- for **NEGATIVES**:

I haven't got any money to go to the restaurant.

- or in **OPEN QUESTIONS**:

Have you got any milk?
(the answer can be 'yes' or 'no')

MUCH / MANY / A LOT OF

- MUCH/MANY are used in **NEGATIVES**:

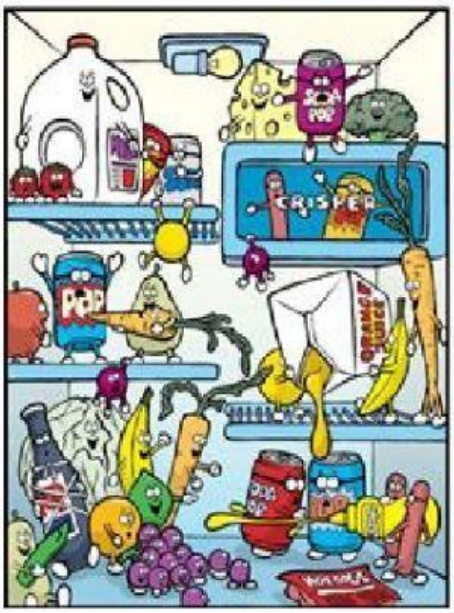
We didn't buy many potatoes / I don't have much oil.

- or in **INTERROGATIVES**

How much milk/how many eggs do you have?

- A LOT OF (LOTS OF) is used in **AFFIRMATIVES**:

We have got a lot of eggs.
(NOT: We have got many eggs)



PRACTICE



Look at the picture and complete the sentences with a suitable QUANTIFIER.

1. Is there _____ butter left? – No, there's ____ butter.
2. How _____ lemons are there? I think two.
3. There aren't _____ strawberries. Do you want me to buy _____ more?
4. Oh no! There's isn't _____ juice. Just one carton.
5. There are _____ soda cans but only _____ bottle of beer.
6. There are only a _____ sausages, right? – No, there are plenty.
7. We need _____ more pears. There aren't _____ left.
8. There aren't _____ eggs in the fridge.
9. There is _____ fruit in the fridge but only _____ vegetables.
10. How _____ cheese is there? There is only _____ cheese left.